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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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18 August 1982

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

No. 2677

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HEAD OF STATE RECEIVES PRINCE FAISAL IN BENIN

Cotonou EHUZU in French 2 Jun 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] In an audience at the Palace of the Republic in Cotonou yesterday, our great comrade in the struggle, President Mathieu Kerekou, received His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Al Faisal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, president of the Association of Islamic Banks, president of the Association of Islamic International Schools, and president of the Islamic Investment Company.

At the end of the audience, Prince Mohammad Al Faisal Al Saud stated that he had discussed matters of common interest and of economic and social development with the head of state.

Summing up his visit and the contacts he had made, Prince Al Faisal stressed the entirely new character of this cooperation and of this unprecedented visit.

"We have now begun," he said, "to more clearly identify development needs and possibilities."

Within the "next few months," continued Prince Al Faisal, "we will begin to work toward the establishment of the structures which will enable us to act."

In speaking of the projects which were discussed during his stay in Cotonou, Prince Al Faisal said that they deal with areas such as housing, food, industry, etc.

This also involves, he added, "proceeding with studies and establishment of the financial institutions which will enable action within a Beninese context to complete projects which have been identified or drawn up."

In relating his impressions at the end of his visit to the press, Prince Al Faisal stressed: "On the official as well as the popular level, we were struck by the warm welcome from the people."

"There is a bond which already exists between us; and we only had to come here to find it. It is not easy to find; but we have found it."

In conclusion, His Highness Prince Mohammed Al Faisal Al Saud stated that he was satisfied and optimistic. I thank the people of Benin and their leaders, and I hope that we will return shortly to begin to work to improve the social and economic conditions in the region.

The Saudi prince and the delegation which accompanied him left Cotonou yesterday.

9693

CSO: 4719/1104

ISLAMIC INVESTMENT COMPANY PRESIDENT VISITS BENIN

Cotonou EHUZU in French 1 Jun 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] As part of the working visit which he is making to the People's Republic of Benin as president of the Islamic Investment Company, Prince Mohammed Al Faisal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia held a working session with the minister of plan, statistics and economic analysis in the minister's conference room yesterday, which involved the Saudi and the Beninese delegations.

Taking the floor at the beginning of the session, after having welcomed our illustrious guest and the delegation accompanying him, Comrade Zul-Kifl Salami noted that the Beninese people are delighted with this historic visit, which falls within the context of the urgently needed rapprochement among developing countries to promote a just and equitable economic order--a new economic order aimed at achieving the social well-being of our people.

The gradual affirmation of the economic independence of the Third World countries, the petroleum producing countries' legitimate assumption of their national wealth, and the exhaustion of the industrialized economies' domestic resources have made the foundation on which the world economic system is supported questionable, and have revealed contradictions within developed economies.

"The economic crisis, which in fact has been brewing for quite a while, has been brought about by the petroleum impact, because this impact has been dramatic. The questioning of the system's foundations is apparently permanent in the sense that we must not speak of a crisis but rather of the actual creation of a new international development situation, a situation which can only be fulfilled if a new international economic order based on social systems involving more cooperation is established."

During the Saudi delegation's visit, the minister promised to acquaint them with the goals of our development program in order to better define the context of our bilateral cooperation in all sectors of social and economic life. In concluding, the minister of plan, statistics and economic analysis did not fail to express appreciation for the effort invested by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Islamic Investment Company within the scope of cooperating with developing countries.

Prince Faisal thanked the Beninese authorities for the welcome he received. "We are here with no pretensions," said Prince Faisal, "earnestly desiring to participate in a brother country's development through cooperation." Prince Faisal also stressed the multinational and pan-Islamic nature of the company he represents, and the fact that this cooperation is only offered to Muslim countries.

"We must see to it," said the prince in concluding, "that we are able to adapt to the new conditions resulting from the world economic crisis in order to assure our independence."

Through the day yesterday, Prince Faisal Al Saud had meetings with several members of the National Executive Council--the ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation; of plan, statistics and economic analysis; of industry, mines and energy; and of information and propaganda.

In the evening he visited the city of Porto-Novo.

9693

CSO: 4719/1104

PRINCE FAISAL ARRIVES IN COTONOU

Cotonou EHUZU in French 31 May 82 p 1

[Article by R. Toi]

[Text] Arriving from Geneva at the head of a 17-member delegation en route to Senegal and Togo, Prince Mohammed Al Faisal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, president of the Islamic Investment Company, landed on Cotonou early yesterday evening.

As he descended from the plane, the Saudi prince was welcomed by Comrade Zulfikar Salami, minister of plan, statistics and economic analysis. The presence of several other members of the National Executive Council was noted.

Many Beninese Islamic Community activists were at the airport. After passing through the crowd, Prince Faisal granted a press interview in the VIP room at Cotonou's international airport.

In defining his concept of development assistance, the Saudi prince stated that indeed assistance is not the most important issue. "The important thing," he stressed, "is still cooperation with the developing countries." This is the reason for his visit to the People's Republic of Benin and to other African nations, a visit which will allow various aspects of cooperation to be examined in view of the development of the respective countries.

After having pointed out that his presence in Benin fit into the context of African Arab-Islamic solidarity, speaking of cooperation with the People's Republic of Benin and its prospects in particular, Prince Faisal stated: "We do not like to talk. We prefer to act."

Let us note that the delegation, which is to leave Cotonou tomorrow according to the planned itinerary, will have discussions with our country's chief authorities.

9693

CSO: 4719/1104

FRENCH AIRCRAFT FOR ARMED FORCES

Cotonou EHUZU in French 26 May 82 pp 1, 6

[Article by Francois Degila]

[Text] The ties of friendship and cooperation between France and Benin are getting stronger and more solid. We had further proof of this last Saturday.

In fact, France has just offered Benin's FAP [People's Armed Forces] two DC3 C 47 airplanes.

The official presentation of these two aircraft was made last Saturday at the national Escadrille by France's ambassador to Benin, Monsieur Hugues Homo, to the FAP general chief of staff, Comrade Barthelemy Ohouens. The latter, who presented our minister of defense, was accompanied by Minister of the Interior and Public Security, Comrade Vincent Guezodje.

The event was marked by an exchange of speeches, and was an opportunity for both our peoples to renew our two states' faith in better future relations.

The French ambassador said that "beyond this material gesture (the presentation of the two C 47 transport aircraft to the People's Armed Forces of Benin), it is apparent that French-Beninese cooperation is gaining strength; France is very glad of this." Monsieur Hugues Homo then made a brief but significant allusion to history: "France will never forget the sacrifice of those who fought with us during the darkest and most painful hours of its history. That is why whatever vicissitudes--which are part of life--the history of French-Beninese relations may go through, this history of French-Beninese military cooperation, which was written with the blood of our soldiers, has never been and will never be erased."

The general chief of staff of FAP, Comrade Barthelemy Ohouens, also stressed the centuries-old ties between the French armed forces and Benin's. "I am convinced," he said, "that the presentation of these two airplanes is the precursor of further even more fruitful military cooperations." Comrade Barthelemy Ohouens concluded by expressing the sincere and cordial gratitude of the Beninese people to the French people.

The airplanes presented to our country are of a type that will strengthen the FAP's logistic support. Each can carry 24 passengers. These airplanes, which can remain in flight for 8 hours, are called multipurpose aircraft because they can be used for both military and civilian purposes. Besides transporting passengers, they can also be used for evacuations of casualties and for research on both land and sea.

9855

CSO: 4719/1074

AGENDA OF WEEKLY MEETING OF STATE COUNCIL

Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Jul 82 pp 1,2

[Article: "Weekly State Council Meeting: Considerable and Justified Optimism After the Libreville Meeting"]

[Excerpts] At a meeting during the night of 15-16 July, from 20:45 to 2:45, the president of the State Council, Comrade Hissein Habre, the commissioners and assistant commissioners discussed the overall implications of a number of aspects of the country's political and administrative situation.

We are publishing in full the communique read after the meeting by the general secretary of the State Council, Mr Youssouf Sidi.

The weekly meeting of the State Council took place in the night of 15-16 July 1982, from 20:45 to 2:45 am, under the chairmanship of the head of State, Comrade Hissein Habre.

Three questions were on the agenda:

1. Report on the State Council president and head of state's visit to Libreville, in the Republic of Gabon, on 10-12 July 1982.
2. Discussion of the flowcharts of various departments.
3. Miscellaneous.

With respect to the first point, the State Council president and head of state, Comrade Hissein Habre, presented a detailed report on his visit to Libreville. The primary concern of the State Council is to find ways and means leading to a rapid and permanent national reconciliation.

Therefore, guided by this constant care, and fully aware of the profound aspiration of the martyr Chadian people, the head of state went to the Gabonese capital to meet Brother Kamougue, so they could discuss national reconciliation. The final communique published after the Libreville meeting mentions considerable and justified optimism.

The second point on the agenda answers the concerns of the head of state with respect to the reactivation of the wheels of State to ensure an efficient and rational operation of the administrative apparatus, taking into account the present need for austerity. As a result, several flowcharts of various departments were carefully examined and adopted.

As miscellaneous questions, the State Council heard and discussed several communications concerning matters of actuality, the straightening up of public affairs, the evaluation of the requirements of the State and of its foreign relations.

The State Council stressed the necessity to complete as soon as possible a census of state officials and agents at their work place, in order to straighten out their financial situation. The State Council decided to postpone for the time being, and until further notice, all recruiting and promotion in the civil service, in order to prevent costly mistakes. Finally, the State Council read a message of support it had received from the Pakistani government.

9294

CSO: 4719/1215

JOINT CONGOLESE-GABONESE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

Brazzaville MWETI in French No 589, 27 May 82 p 2

[Text of Communique issued 26 May 1982 in Brazzaville]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of his counterpart, Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT], president of the republic, head of state, president of the council of ministers, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Gabonese Republic, secretary general and founder of the Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG), made a working visit to the People's Republic of the Congo on 26 May 1982.

Upon his arrival at Maya-Maya Airport, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo and his delegation were given a warm welcome by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and the people of Brazzaville.

During his visit, President El Hadj Omar Bongo and President Denis Sassou-Nguesso held important talks which dealt primarily with bilateral relations between the two countries as well as current international issues.

Taking part in these talks were:

On the Gabonese side, among others:

Martin Bongo, the minister of foreign affairs;

Jules Bourdes Ogouli Guende, state minister for labor;

Jean Francois Ntoutoume, minister, adviser to the president of the republic, the top official on civil and commercial aviation.

On the Congolese side:

Comrades:

Pierre Nze, member of the Political Bureau, minister of foreign affairs;

Boniface Matingou, minister of tourism and environmental affairs;

Ferard Bitsindou, secretary general of the Office of the President;
Ange Edouard Pongui, financial adviser to the president;
Lt Col Tsika Kabala, military adviser to the president;
Christian Gilbert Bembet, media consultant;
Alexis Okoy, Congolese ambassador to Gabon;
Col Emmanuel Ngouelondele, adviser to the president;
Col Elenga, chief of the general staff of the APN [National People's Army].

The two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the ties of cooperation and good neighborliness between the two countries which are growing and becoming stronger as evidenced by the results obtained at the second session of the Greater Congolese-Gabonese Joint Commission.

They reaffirmed their resolve to increase and intensify these ties of cooperation and recommended that previous accords signed by the two countries be put into full effect.

Analyzing the current situation in central Africa the two presidents once again expressed their concern over the tragedy of Chad and expressed the hope of seeing this fraternal country restored to unity and stability.

They expressed their resolve to continue to aid this fraternal country as well as to help the OAU find a durable solution to this painful problem.

To this end they suggested that the heads of state in central Africa meet in Brazzaville at a date to be set through diplomatic channels.

President El Hadj Omar Bongo talked with President Denis Sassou-Nguesso about progress toward creation of the Economic Community of Central African States.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction at progress made thus far and expressed the hope that the Libreville Declaration, as a part of the Lagos Action Plan, will be effectively implemented.

Reviewing the current situation in Africa and within the OAU, the two presidents expressed the hope that all possible measures will be taken to safeguard the unity of the continent and the progress achieved by the organization, which has shown in the past its ability to surmount difficulties and strengthen cohesion among the member states.

With regard to Namibia, the two presidents reaffirmed their support for the valiant people of Namibia and called on the contact group, in view of the upcoming independence of Namibia under the aegis of the OAU and the United Nations, to hold elections on the principle of "one man--one vote."

Done in Brazzaville, 26 May 1982.

9516

CSO: 4719/1090

BRIEFS

DPRK GIFT--Comrade Jean-Michel Bokamba-Yangouma, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Party Organization Department, gave an audience to the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Comrade Kim Bong Kon, on Wednesday, 7 July, at 10 am, in his office. The Korean diplomat came to present the head of the Organization Department with a gift from President Kim Il Sung to the president of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party, Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso; the gift consisted of 5,300 Congolese Labor Party member badges. "This gift," the Korean diplomat stressed, among other things, "is a token of gratitude from President Kim Il Sung and the Korean people to the Congolese Labor Party, to thank them for their consistent support of the Korean people's struggle." In addition, Comrade Kim Bong declared himself pleased with the good relations [between the two countries] which, in the past two years, were marked by an exchange of delegations, both at party and at state level. For his part, Comrade Jean-Michel Bokamba-Yangouma, speaking for the president of the Central Committee, thanked Comrade Kim Il Sung for his constant care for the Congolese Labor Party. In doing so, he assured the Korean Labor Party and the Korean people of the unconditional support of the Congolese Labor Party in its struggle against imperialism, which supports the South-Korean puppet regime. [Text] [Brazzaville ETIMBA in French No 652, 10 Jul 82 p 6] 9294

TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL--Comrade Elenga-Ngaporo, minister of commerce, accompanied by Comrades Gambouele Ambroise, secretary general in the commerce ministry, Note Agathon, general manager of OFNACOM [National Marketing Office] and Ahoue-Owango Albert, general manager of OCMC [expansion unknown], left Brazzaville Sunday 23 May 1982 at 1030 hours on an official mission to Brasilia (Brazil). Comrade Elenga-Ngaporo is going on this mission because Brazil, with whom we have a large surplus in trade (because of Brazil's importation of Congolese oil), is a trading partner worthy of our special attention because of the competitiveness of its products and because our two countries are similar in climate and physical characteristics. This mission will enable the minister of commerce to review prospects for expanding trade relations between the People's Republic of Congo and the Federative Republic of Brazil, and will provide an ideal occasion to investigate and analyze bilateral trade problems. [Text] [Brazzaville MWETI in French No 588, 25 May 82 p 1] 9516

PETROLEUM COMPANY RECEIVES CREDIT--The French magazine AFRIQUE INDUSTRIE reports that the Agip-Recherches Congo has just been given a medium-term credit of \$50 million from a consortium headed by the Bank of Montreal. The Agip-Recherches Congo Company is involved with Elf-Congo in oil production at offshore Emeraude and Loango. The Italian company also continues with its licensed explorations at the offshore sites of "Madingo Maritime" and "Mer Profonde." (Congoles Information Agency) [Text] [Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'ACI in French 25 May 82 p 4] 9516

9516

CSO: 4719/1090

ARMED FORCES ASSURED OF CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

Djibouti LA NATION DE DJIBOUTI in French 10 Jun 82 p 14

[Text] On 6 June, the National Armed Forces celebrated the 5th anniversary of their establishment, marked in particular by an important speech by the President of the Republic, Supreme Leader of the Armed Forces El Hadj Hassan Gouled Aptidon.

The day began with a military parade on the "Roccade" in front of the Cabinet offices at 7 am, following which the head of state delivered his address in reply to those made by the Minister of defense, Mr Habib Mohamed Loita, and the chief of general staff, before a parade of all the armed forces in the presence of the country's highest officials (civil and military) as well as the diplomatic corps stationed in Djibouti, and before proceeding to Boulaos at around 9:30 am for the official dedication of the buildings housing the Central Equipment Facility which is to become the military engineering services' base.

Speaking first and addressing himself to the head of state and supreme leader of the armed forces, Minister of Defense Habib Mohamed Loita declared that "thanks to the efforts of everyone, officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted men, on this anniversary I can present to you a proud army of men who are ready and available to execute all the missions which may be entrusted to them," whether these be specifically military missions or various tasks for our country, the minister stated before stressing that "although many things have been achieved so far (development of operations, improvement of living conditions, acquiring modern equipment), there is still a long way to go."

As for Col Ali Meidal Wais, he took the opportunity to sum up activities completed this year and to set the major lines of future activities that the leaders of the National Army plan to undertake.

"A year which will have been marked by significant progress," declared the chief of general staff in particular, while stressing that "a specific effort to increase the coherence and the effectiveness of the armed forces has been

"made." He pointed out that operational development continued through the completion of: a general quarters unit to facilitate the organization of command and enable effective support for intervention units; establishment of a central equipment facility responsible for supply and support; establishment of an engineering service for construction; intensifying training for staff and specialists; gradual improvement in military standard of living.

Goals For the Future

Col Ali Meidhal then indicated priority activities that the National Army plans to undertake: building large housing developments to encourage the essential consolidation of military personnel; continuing to equip the forces by providing the support and border units with sufficient anti-tank resources; improving air transport and increasing marine surveillance capability; strengthening defense of the airport and port complex and other sensitive areas in the capital; developing and strengthening technical training, etc.; and participating even more actively in the economic development of the nation. In this context, Col Ali Meidhal indicated that the Army plans to develop the land around regions where its units are stationed by planting crops which will at least in part provide for their food needs.

Equipping forces, recruiting and training staff, and improving working and living conditions: in his speech, the head of state emphasized equipping the forces, recruiting and training personnel, and improving working and living conditions for military personnel as priority objectives for the next few years. "I am again entrusting you with a heavy responsibility," said the head of state. "But I know I can count on you again to assure our country's defense under all circumstances, and thus to guarantee our freedom."

Here is the head of state's entire speech.

"Five years ago, our national army was officially established. It is with great pride that I am here among you to celebrate this anniversary which precedes the anniversary of our independence by only a few days.

"Five years is not much in the life of a nation, but these 5 years will have been significant because you have been able to form an effective and completely united entity from extremely diverse elements, which is certainly a model for the whole country, and you accepted the challenge calmly and with discipline. The sacrifices required were accepted with courage, for the significance of the stakes did not escape anyone. As far as equipment and training of personnel are concerned, the overall results of this period, which can be summed up today, seem to be extremely encouraging. In fact, beginning with a situation which was hardly favorable, it was necessary to assure the maintenance of diverse and worn equipment and weapons while achieving to the greatest extent possible the modern and consistent capability that the new central facility will be able to support with more facilities and efficiency. Under these conditions, we ran up against great difficulties in training personnel, and many had to be retrained several times in order to be able to adapt on both the technical and tactical levels. In addition to the training efforts

"on location, close to 400 trainees were sent abroad, chiefly to France, to receive training to enable them to use the most advanced equipment.

"The results obtained also enabled us to reduce by one-third the size of the military technical assistance mission established at the time of independence which continues to build the armed forces at your side by responding with flexibility to the rapid development of requirements.

"The results obtained in the areas of organizing the forces and adapting them to our defense requirements, as well as in infrastructures, where many projects have been completed or are still in progress, have also been satisfying.

"These activities conducted for the defense of our country are a credit to you, and in the name of the people of Djibouti, I thank you.

"To assure our defense, it is necessary, as Col Ali Mehidal Waiss, our chief of general staff, reminded you, to increase the operational capability of the armed forces.

"Of course this implies continuing to equip these forces, especially providing them with modern weapons and rapid intervention capability to enable us to act on our land and sea borders.

Improving Technical and Tactical Training

"But above all, this implies being provided with select, well-trained and completely available personnel. In the next few years it is therefore essential to devote ourselves to making a rigorous selection to obtain men of quality who will be able to use the modern equipment which we are going to acquire shortly. It will also be advisable to improve technical and tactical training for everyone by making maximum use of national capabilities and appealing as in the past to the friendly countries who have never hesitated to give us the benefit of their assistance and experience.

"Finally, it will be necessary to assure all the men working and living conditions which meet their needs completely.

"Efforts undertaken with regard to housing must be continued and if necessary accelerated with the assistance of civilian enterprises. But, these efforts must not be limited to the most important bases. Our isolated posts, which are often unarmed, must not be forgotten for in the end, our safety depends on their vigilance.

"Equipping the forces, recruiting and training personnel, working and living conditions: these are the goals that we must set for the next few years. This is a heavy responsibility which I am entrusting to you once more, but I know I can count on you again to assure the defense of our country in all circumstances and thus to guarantee our freedom.

"I am placing my trust in you and I am asking you to turn to trust in the support of the nation and the effective assistance of the government.

"Long live the National Army. Long live the Republic of Djibouti."

9693

CS0: 4719/1105

PORT-GENTIL AIRPORT IN PROCESS OF MODERNIZATION

Libreville L'UNION in French 12 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by Neltoh: "Airport Modernization"]

[Excerpts] As part of the preparations for the 20th anniversary of independence, to be celebrated in Port-Gentil next 17 August, the last touches are being put to the face-lift of the town, to the satisfaction of the minister and personal advisor to the president of the Republic, in charge of civilian and commercial aviation, Mr Jean-Francois Ntoutoume who, accompanied by Air Gabon officials--among others Air Gabon president, Mr Jean-Louis Messan--and local officials, visited the Port-Gentil airport facilities.

Indeed, after Libreville and Franceville-Mvengue, Port-Gentil will have a truly international airport, with adequate modern ground and communication facilities. As Minister Jean-Francois Ntoutoume pointed out, the international Port-Gentil airport, to answer the will of the head of state, will be of a size consistent with its political, commercial and economic importance.

All the more so as its heavy and light aircraft aprons and its runway (1900 m) have been enlarged so that it can now receive at the same time a Boeing 747, a DC 10, a Boeing 737 and a Fokker 28 on its apron. As for light aircraft, some 20 tourism and business planes can be stationed there.

In addition, the British firm Plessey Airport has installed an Instrumental Landing System of the Plessey Plan 17/18 type in Port-Gentil, so planes can now land in any weather (even when visibility is poor).

This system is installed at both ends of the runway and actually consists in a location indicator showing the runway axis to the pilot, both night and day. Let us recall, however, that, in addition to Port-Gentil, the international Libreville and Franceville-Mvengue airports are already equipped with this electronic location system. The airport work now being completed at Port-Gentil will have cost 2.4 billion CFA francs.

With respect to further work at the airport, the minister stated that they will be paid for by 4.8 billion CFA francs provided for in the national budget. The work will include the extension of the runway (from 1,900 to 3,000 m),

and new technical facilities to receive all wide-body aircraft, especially the 747. The airport will also have to be closed off and its safety ensured permanently.

Once work is completed, the airport of our economic capital will rank fourth in aircraft capacity, after Libreville, Abidjan and Dakar, among the 14 member states of ASECNA [Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar]. This, of course, is important and necessary for the economic development of our country, and especially of Port-Gentil.

9294

CSO: 4719/1215

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN HYDROCARBON PRICES--Hydrocarbon prices throughout the country were significantly increased as of midnight last night. Now, according to the document made public by the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, the price of a liter of premium at Libreville and Port-Gentil has risen from 195 to 210 francs [CFA], while the price of regular has gone up from 190 to 205 francs [CFA]. The price of diesel oil has gone up from 104 to 114 francs [CFA]. The increases on premium and regular come to 7.7 percent, while the increase on diesel oil is 9.6 percent. It should be noted that the price of kerosene remains unchanged at 60 CFA francs. [Excerpt] [Libreville L'UNION in French 10 Jun 82 p 1] 9516

FRENCH-GABONESE MANEUVERS--The French-Gabonese military maneuvers dubbed "Nyanga 82," which began Friday 4 June in Nyanga Province, ended Tuesday 8 June with a big march-past organized at the town of Tchibanga, the provincial capital. Those in attendance included the governor of the province, Mr N'Nang Enzema, Army General Nazaire Boulingui (the local mayor) and General Daniel Ba Oumar, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Other high-ranking officers present included Ella Abessolo, Andre Eyeghe and Jacques Mve, who are the respective chiefs of staff of the Army and Navy, the National Police Force and the Gabonese Air Force. The objectives fixed for this military exercise, which put elements of our own security forces and those of France in a simulated combat situation in order to harmonize our tactics and experience, were broadly attained. The aim of this large operation was not only to train the elements of our respective security forces in how to cooperate in combined operations, but also and most importantly to test the operational capability of both the Gabonese security forces--including ground and naval forces, the Gabonese parachute battalion, the air force, and the presidential guard--and the Police Intervention Force (FOPI). In the exercise scenario that was enacted, Gabon was subjected to incursions by subversive elements from a neighboring country, "the red forces," which were pursuing strategic goals and attempting to affect their domestic policy environment. Their aim was to create a situation to their advantage by destabilizing Gabon in the south. We will return to this subject in more detail in a subsequent article. [Text] [Libreville L'UNION in French 10 Jun 82 p 4] 9516

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AGREEMENT--An exploration agreement was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Oil and Mines, between Gabon, represented by the second vice-prime minister, Mr Etienne Guy Mouvagha Tchioba, and the general director of the Oil Products Department, Mr Samuel Dossou Awored, on the one hand, and managers of ENSERCH [expansion unknown], an oil company, on the other hand. [Excerpt] [Libreville L'UNION in French 16 Jul 82 p 1] 9294

JAPANESE GIFT--The Japanese vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hideo Tsuji, who visited Libreville on 12-13 July, is the first high Japanese official to come to Gabon on an official visit, not counting the two members of the Japanese parliament who came for the national holiday in August 1975. The concrete result of his visit is a document signed by Mr Hideo and Mrs Honorine Dossou-Naki, secretary of state to Foreign Affairs. Mention is made of a 40 million yen gift (about 50 million CFA francs) of technical equipment for the Omar Bongo University in Libreville. As far as technical cooperation is concerned, the Japanese minister stated, Japan has always been willing to provide experts and technicians so as to help developing countries exploit their national resources rationally, promote scientific research and improve their own technological level. [Excerpt] [Libreville L'UNION in French 15 Jul 82 p 4] 9294

CSO: 4719/1215

GHANA

AFRICAN LEADERS TOEING U.S. LINE ATTACKED

AB041446 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] There is no need for the documentary evidence of manoeuvres by the United States to dissuade some African countries from attending the African heads of state summit in Libya that Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi is reported to have found to know that the United States is the major cause of the present crisis in the OAU. It has not been possible for the 39th OAU Council of Ministers meeting to come on, and the heads of states summit scheduled to open in Tripoli tomorrow would not have a full house.

The United States has come out openly against the holding of the highest level of consultations within the OAU in Libya, even though she is not an African country and has no business whatsoever in deciding where African heads of state should meet.

Last year the United States promised to give aid to African countries which would boycott the OAU summit in Libya, using the then presence of Libyan troops in Chad as an excuse. Now that Libyan troops are out of Chad, another excuse has been found. This time, the status of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic under the leadership of the Polisario Front within the OAU.

And the United States has succeeded in getting a number of African countries to toe its line, thereby creating a crisis in the OAU. The question to put to those countries boycotting the OAU summit is this: Are the people of the Saharan Republic not entitled to self-determination and independence like all other countries on the continent? And indeed all over the world? But imperialist stooges have no shame. Countries like Morocco, Zaire, Senegal, Liberia and so on are allowing themselves to be used in fostering divisions on the African continent. Most likely, the United States has promised them more aid, though it is well known that our countries cannot rely on aid to develop.

In any case, the bulk of whatever aid is given by the imperialist countries goes back to the West and does not in any way benefit the African masses. The aid really goes to enrich corrupt heads of states, top state officials

and the elite groups. Is there not an African head of state who is one of the richest persons in the whole world even as the mass of the people in his country wallow in poverty?

The declared position of Guinea is even more shameful, specially in view of the fact that the Guinean leader, Sekou Toure, is one of the significant figures who contributed to the founding of the OAU, but he is now actively being used to cause the collapse of the OAU. Having taken this stand, does Guinea have the moral right to host next year's OAU summit and lead the organization? African leaders should know that all countries, be they superpowers or whatever, which seek to create divisions in Africa, cannot be our genuine friends. The divisive role the United States is playing in African politics is negative and destructive. The African peoples must come out to protest against this, even in countries where leaders have given themselves to be manipulated by imperialism.

CSO: 4700/1670

DETAILS OF ONCFG'S REPAIR, EQUIPMENT PROGRAM NOTED

Conakry HOROYA in French No 2927, 18-24 Jul 82 pp 31-33

[Article by Ibrahima Sory Camara: "ONCFG: When Men Are More Resistant Than Machines"]

[Excerpts] It is a recognized and accepted fact that communication routes play a decisive part in the social and economic development of a country. They provide impetus for the economy. They bring men closer together, making it easier for them to travel, and they generate trade, thus acting as a powerful lever in transforming society. In this respect, they have always been a cause for concern in all countries. Here, in Guinea, they form a sector which is the object of the most careful attention and the constant solicitude of the party-state's national leadership.

Among these routes, the railroad is like a backbone and the party-state views its development as an integral part of the overall national development plan.

Thus, after recently observing swarms of workers along the railroad tracks, we knew that the National Railroad Office [ONCFG] was undergoing a mutation that will benefit the Revolution. A program! The will to surpass oneself, with an underlying acute awareness of one's duty and faith in the Nation's bright future.

To come back to the program now in progress, we shall note that it was adopted after many general meetings, both in Conakry and at the principal stations. Essentially, it consists in reballasting the track. For instance, on the Cissela-Kankan (162 km) section, the less practicable section, repair work is progressing intensively, thanks to the re-opening of the Bissikrima granite quarry and the mobilization of nearly 300 workers.

Three teams are at work: one includes 30 workers in charge of clearing the track; the second, the so-called "Stone Block Action" team, picks up and carries stone blocks (it includes 90-100 workers); and the third team is lifting and packing the track (30 workers).

Along the Conakry-Kindia track, worker teams are busy on the first stage, i.e. reballasting the track until Kouria. The "Stone Block Action" team picks up stone blocks between PK 22 and PK 30, i.e. between the Simbaya station and the SOPROCIMENT [expansion unknown] cement works.

This new action program is carried out among enthusiasm. The work quota has been set at 100 stone blocks per person per day. After integral VET [expansion unknown] revision, this amounts to 4 meters per man and per day. A healthy spirit of competition is promoted between the groups and within each group. To check the rate of progress of the program, every Friday the union section bureau and the administrative management are holding general assemblies of workers devoted to reports on the tasks, criticism and self-criticism. This method is known to create and promote mutual understanding and develop solidarity, and makes for a rapid and correct execution of the tasks. When we talked to them, many workers told us that, at the general assembly, every one consciously and responsibly criticizes what he thinks is negative and, at the same time, offers suggestions for improvements.

This practice of democracy is also found at all levels of the party-state organization. And thus, for the railroad workers, 1982 will be the year when they can demonstrate their determination to surpass themselves in their unrelenting efforts to achieve regularity in ONCFG operations.

Bright Prospects

At the end of our trip along the railroad track, we talked with the general manager, Comrade Mamadi Kadio Fofana, and all his closest associates, including the general secretary of the union section, Comrade Mamadouba Soumah. In particular, we discussed the administrative organization, a few operational problems and the prospects for railroad development under our Nation's Five-Year Social and Economic Development Plan. In this respect, here is what Comrade Kadio told us:

"ONCFG is an independent transportation enterprise created by Order No 32 bis/PRG [expansion unknown] dated 2 June 1959. The present structure was inherited from the National Rail-Road Office and created by Decree No 54/PRG/75 dated 7 February 1975. As a result, the Office consists of a general management, including one general manager and two assistant general managers. It includes a railroad operations department, a mechanical and electrical engineer's department, a technical VBT [expansion unknown] department, a financial department, a general supplies department, a national railroad school and a community clinic.

Each technical department consists of a number of specialized sections.

The total personnel numbers 1,452 agents, including 67 women. "ONCFG operates according to the same rules as all other national independent enterprises. Each department must maintain the equipment and the infrastructure in a good state of repair and operate it so as to break even. To this effect, every Tuesday at 9 am, there is a meeting of cadres to discuss information, reports on the tasks of the previous week, and the distribution of new tasks."

"During the past fiscal year, the financial situation of the Office improved over 1979-80. We are now doing all we can to sustain this level of improvement."

With respect to the momentary disappearance of packages on the passenger train, the general manager stated that few instances of theft are ever recorded at stations or on the trains. Often, he said, the packages get mixed up in storage or forgotten at the time of loading.

Whenever a claim is filed, the storage room is searched, the package found and returned to its owner.

As for trains sometimes halting between two stations, Comrade Kadio Fofana called it a non-managed halt. It is authorized because it shows the government's concern for placing all instruments and means of social welfare promotion within reach of the people. There are halts to make contact with people who live between two distant stations and need the train to transport their agricultural produce, their cattle, etc.

"With respect to the prospects for the economic development of railroad under our Nation's Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan, we must note that on 1 May 1982, the office received two new 1,202-hp Alsthom locomotives. This is part of the realization of the 1981-1982 section of the Five-Year Plan. Sixteen first and second class cars will be delivered to Conakry next September. As a result, there will be marked improvements in passenger train traffic and in travelling conditions between Conakry and Kankan."

According to Comrade Kadio Fofana, the volume of goods transported must be doubled, even tripled, the number of passengers increased, the number of trips of the mining train shuttle transporting clinker from Conakry to the cement works increased to 4. In conclusion, the general manager of ONCFG stated:

"The Nation's Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan offers bright development prospects for ONCFG. The agreement signed between the Guinean government and Franco-Rail MTE [expansion unknown], the first part of which has been completed, and the studies made by the French company Sofre-Rail, must yield the following results:

- full rehabilitation of the Conakry-Kankan railroad (660 km) to ensure safe circulation. Investments for track equipment and for proper maintenance;
- complete overhauling of the old still usable equipment (tractive and hauled stock) and new locomotives, passenger and freight cars;
- installation of a buried cable from Conakry to Kindia (152 km) and rehabilitation of the overhead telephone line from Kindia to Kankan. Communications would thus be perfectly ensured and the regulation of train circulation would be further reinforced;
- reorganization of the railroad operation and realization of a simple signaling system."

A tariff revision and transport coordination would also take place to ensure ONCFG profitability, and the practical and theoretical overqualification of all the personnel would also be ensured.

As you can see, ONCFG has embarked on a vast program of action.

9294

CSO: 4719/1209

GUINEA

BRIEFS

NEW TEAM OF CHINESE PHYSICIANS--As part of the cooperation between the government of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea and the government of the People's Republic of China, a team of 19 Chinese physicians specialized in all fields arrived in Conakry on Saturday, 3 July 1982. It was met at the airport by the general director of health services, Dr Hadyatou Sylla, and most officials of his department. On Monday, 5 July 1982, the Chinese physicians, with the Chinese ambassador to Guinea at their head, were received by the minister of Health, Prof Mamadou Kaba Bah, and his associates. During an exchange of speeches, the minister of Health, the ambassador, and the head of the Chinese medical team, all pointed out that the team's visit was intended to broaden and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. In particular, the minister of Health expressed the government's satisfaction at the disinterested and efficient manner in which Chinese teams have fulfilled their mission with the Guinean population over the past 15 years, in Conakry as well as inland. Finally, the Chinese ambassador and the head of the medical mission confirmed their government's desire to continue cooperating with Guinea in all fields. [Text] [Conakry HOROYA in French No 2926, 11-17 Jul 82 p 28] 9294

CSO: 4719/1209

PEOPLE'S REJECTION OF COUP ATTEMPT PRAISED

EA061010 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 6 Aug 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Anarchy Not for Kenya"]

[Text] The rebuff that the mutinous elements from the Kenya Air Force received from the people of this country after their ill-fated attempt to destabilize Kenya's democratic government is a clear indication to them and their sympathisers that Kenya will never accept to be ruled by anarchy.

By now, the folly of their action should be apparent to those junior officers of the K.A.F. who thought that by sheer bravado, lawlessness and abuse of the rights of the people, they could destroy the institutions of good government that have seen this country to where it is since independence.

During their brief flirtation with power, the people of Kenya saw vividly what authority in the hands of misguided elements in a disciplined force and in our institutions of higher learning could lead to.

It has cost lives, wanton destruction of property and embarrassment to the nation, before people who represent no one but their own greed could be brought to book. Life in the capital city of Nairobi has been disrupted, simply because some disgruntled elements feel they have a right to impose their will on others.

Fortunately for Kenya, the country has an armed force, a police force and a popularly elected government which did not flinch in the face of treachery.

His excellency the president, Mr Daniel Arap Moi, has already reassured the nation that the recent disturbances were the work of a section of the air force, and in no way a rebellion of the loyalty of the Kenya security forces whose loyalty is beyond question.

The speed with which the rest of the military and the police moved in to disabuse these rebellious elements of their pretensions is in itself enough testimony that our security forces are loyal to the government and to the nation.

Kenyans throughout the land are now asking themselves: Who are these people who could encourage the general populace to harass civilians, rob them of their property and vehicles, and generally embark on a course of hooliganism?

They are also questioning themselves as to the quality and value of elements at the university campus who collaborated with them in this destructive adventure.

At the same time, Kenyans are generally thankful that they have security forces who are capable of defending the nation from lawlessness and a government that is fully committed to the rule of law.

The commitment to democratic rule and respect for the law is nowhere more evident than in the declaration by President Moi that those involved in the rebellion will be court martialled--if they are serving in the armed forces--or will be tried in accordance with the laws of the land, if they are civilians.

Now that the country has returned back to normal after that brief insurrection, it is important for all of us to commit ourselves even more fully to the democratic form of government that the majority has chosen, the rule of law that prevails, and to defend even more tenaciously those institutions that make this possible.

This brief lesson in treachery should not be lost on any one of us.

CSO: 4700/1669

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

DOE TO VISIT U.S.--The official working visit of head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe, to the United States, will now take place on 17 August instead of the 22d [date as received] as previously announced. According to an Executive Mansion release, President Reagan requested the change owing to present legislative business. He said the new date will allow key senators and congressmen, including the Black Caucus, who are concerned with African and Liberian affairs, to meet with the Liberian leader. The U.S. president noted that such meetings will be of fundamental importance to both governments. Meanwhile, both the Liberian and U.S. Governments are continuing to work on preparations for the head of state's visit to the United States. [Text] [AB090710 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 9 Aug 82]

CSO: 4700/1672

BRIEFS

JAPANESE DONATIONS--Two agreements between the Government of the Republic of Niger and the Japanese Government were signed yesterday morning at 1100 hours at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Niger was represented by Mr Daouda Diallo, the minister of foreign affairs, and Japan was represented by His Excellency Yoshikazu Sugitani, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Niger. The two agreements cover (1) a project to supply medical equipment, at a total value of 500 million yen, and (2) a rice project to provide rice valued at 45 million yen including transportation costs. The total of the two projects comes to 950 million yen. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the signing of the agreements which will strengthen the already fruitful economic cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 8 Jun 82 p 1] 9516

USSR CULTURAL AGREEMENT--A draft cultural agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Niger, covering the period 1981-1982, was signed on 16 July 1982 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation by His Excellency Mr Vladimir Kudashkin, USSR ambassador to Niger, and Mr Sandi Yacouba, general secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. [Text] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 20 Jul 82 p 2] 9294

CSO: 4719/1209

SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

PCR Central Committee Statement

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 10 May 82 p 2

[Text] Less than a month ago, after the deliberations of the last General Committee of the PCR [Reunionese Communist Party], this paper reported that we were currently living in a historic period, an extremely important period of our history. The events of the past few days show both the accuracy of that evaluation and the fact that things are moving faster.

On the first anniversary of the accession to office of the Left, the government decided to examine the implementation of its program for the "DOM" [Overseas Departments]. This was the gist of Henri Emmanuelli's message to the last ministerial council meeting: the announcement of a limited ministerial council meeting on the sole issue of decentralization in the "DOM."

Implementation of decentralization in our country means implementation of item 58 in the president of the republic's program, which provides for election of a single proportional assembly.

The meeting in Paris of the principal political forces of the Left of the Antilles, Guyana, and Reunion over the 1 May week-end was intended precisely to tell the government that decentralization in our countries must be achieved through election of a single proportional representative assembly. The participants in the Paris meeting not only reaffirmed their support for this program, but also asked the government to make haste now (see the final statement on the Paris meeting).

Indeed, the political framework for decentralization of the "DOM" must be defined as quickly as possible. The implementation of decentralization by election of a single assembly will clarify the political debate in Reunion.

Moreover, it will be done with respect for the constitution. The adaptation of decentralization in the "DOM" with respect for our particular characteristics will be in full conformity with the constitution, whether extremists in Reunion, such as Fontaine, Benard, Barau, and men of Jean-Paul Virapouille's sort like it or not. And then we shall see Claude Huc and other "JIR" [expansion unknown] frauds eat their own lies.

So the period which we are experiencing is a crucial one. In all districts, workers and the entire population must be on the offensive. They must express in all places their support for implementation of the president of the republic's program, in conformity with the contract ratified on 10 May 1981, the election of a single proportional representative assembly in Reunion.

This is the only way to open our country to economic, social, and cultural development. This is the gist of the PCR's appeal, which we publish below.

PCR Central Committee Statement

The Central Committee of the Reunionese Communist Party met on 8 May 1982 with the account of its secretariat's recent mission to Paris as the main item on the agenda.

The delegation, led by Secretary General Paul Verges, reported the circumstances in which the meeting of DOM anti-colonialist forces took place in the capital on 1 and 2 May.

This meeting was indeed marked, as the final statement says, by the participation of organizations "representing an important fraction of their people." Indeed, besides representatives of the Communist Parties of Guadeloupe and Reunion, representatives of the Martiniquais Progressive Party and the Guyanese Socialist Party as well as some well-known individuals, took part in the deliberations and signed the final statement.

While regretting the non-participation of DOM socialist unions in this important meeting, although they had been invited to it, the PCR Central Committee noted that the two socialist deputies of Guadeloupe and Reunion, and two deputies connected with the socialist group from Guyana and Martinique (the latter, incidentally, having participated in the Paris meeting) sent a letter to the president of the republic asking him to implement rapidly item 58 of his program.

Participating organizations came to an agreement on the essential issue in our countries at this time: the urgent implementation of decentralization law adaptation to our special needs.

Agreement was reached on asking the government to announce with all speed its bill on this matter, and on asking that it be in accordance with item 58 of the 110 proposals made by Francois Mitterrand as candidate for the presidency of the republic.

This program, which is now a signed and sealed contract between the president and the majority of the French people, provides for the establishment of a single assembly in each of the DOM, an assembly elected by proportional representation, and invested with the powers of the general councils and the regional councils as defined by the decentralization law.

Out of the meetings that the representatives of these organizations then had with government representatives, the following emerged, in essence:

The limited council charged with setting the direction for decentralization in the DOM is to meet very shortly in Paris: as of that time, the government will work up its bill and submit it to various authorities for opinion (state councils, local councils) before having the parliament vote on it. This means that from now on, things will move very fast. And what will move fastest is the collapse of the lies of the extreme right, which has done all it could to try to set the Reunionese one against another and against the president of the republic by imputing the worst intentions to him.

All these accusations are about to fall apart, for implementation of item 58 (single assembly) will be perfectly in conformity with the constitution, the basic law of the republic. This will be the law, it will be imposed on everyone, and this will be an entirely new situation, for what will have to be done is to prepare everywhere for the election of the Regional Assembly, which must take place between now and May 1983, a year from now. Those who deny this law will make "outlaws" of themselves.

So there is not a moment to lose: from now on, the Reunionese, like all the other peoples of the DOM are really going to be beginning the process of change in their countries, a change which was not yet apparent to the masses.

But change will be the work of the masses themselves. It is through their involvement in the political scene that they will put a stop to the maneuvers of the Right as it tries to hang on to its privileges.

That is why the Central Committee of the Reunionese Communist Party is appealing to the men and women of Reunion, not just to the communists, but to all those who supported the election of the president of the republic; to mobilize quickly everywhere; to say firmly, soon, and everywhere that the time to rally for change in Reunion has come; to express en masse everywhere, through motions, telegrams, etcetera, their support for the president of the republic for implementation of item 58 of his program; to organize quickly everywhere on this basis to beat the Right a year from now.

It is in this sense that the days, weeks, and months to follow will be truly historic; the men and women of Reunion will be creating their history, and for the first time in our history, something is going to happen that no Reunionese has ever experienced, the Left will be in office in Reunion to assure its development.

CGTR Confederal Bureau Resolution

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 14 May 82 p 2

[Text] On the eve of an important government decision on decentralization, which will affect our country's future for several years, everyone is well aware that the Right and the "JIR" [expansion unknown] are trying to poison public opinion. Until the government's final decision we are sure that every day the "JIR" will make some fresh effort to poison the minds of its readers and of the public in Reunion.

Nobody has forgotten that the JIR was caught red-handed in fraud and lies in

publishing the statement that the Council of State had "officially" expressed a negative opinion on the establishment of a single proportional representative assembly. And its about-face the next day is proof enough that the Council of State had not expressed any opinion, either "officially" or "unofficially."

Yesterday, the JIR tried on its front page to poison the Reunionese once more. It thought it could make headlines on the "government's problems" because there was no communique after the limited ministerial council meeting on Wednesday.

But we challenge JIR to reproduce a single communique issued after a limited ministerial council meeting. It will not be able to do it for the simple reason that a limited ministerial council meeting never ends with a press communique. The limited council of ministers is not necessarily a deliberating body.

As JIR itself says, the limited council of ministers is mainly a forum for political debate among ministers of state and the ministers concerned with the particular subject of the meeting. In the case of decentralization in the DOM, Mr Emmanuelli thus participated in the limited council of ministers. So it is a political meeting in which the president of the republic gathers the views of the ministers.

Generally speaking, one has to wait several days before finding out about any decision. That was the case, for example, with New Caledonia, for which it was not until several days after the limited ministerial council meeting on the problem that the government announced its decisions.

But what is sure is that the Reunionese will continue to make their point of view known. They will reaffirm even more their support for the president of the republic's program: implementation of item 58.

All those who met about this program on 10 May and constituted the president's majority will express it en masse and strongly every day.

CGTR Confederal Bureau Resolution

The Confederal Bureau of the CGTR [General Confederation of Labor of Reunion], meeting at the Port on Tuesday 11 May 1982, the day before the limited council meeting on the bill for decentralization in the Overseas Departments, noted with positive reactions the initiatives taken by both the socialist members of parliament for the Overseas Departments and the representatives of anti-colonialist forces in Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, and Reunion, who met in Paris on 1 and 2 May, as well as the stances of the political formations of the Left making up the presidential majority in Reunion, concerning the implementation of decentralization in Reunion.

The Confederal Bureau on this occasion felt that it was wise and necessary to recall its position as defined in its 8 December 1981 resolution on this important issue.

That is, the institution of a truly representative assembly, democratically elected and having powers of decision, capable of making possible the implementation of a policy of social progress and development such as is desired by

workers [in general] and workers in Reunion. Despite the numerous positive measures taken by the government this past year, workers note that real change has not yet become a fact in Reunion, as is demonstrated incidentally by the increasing number of conflicts in recent times.

Concerning the method of election, the Confederal Bureau feels obliged to stress the importance to wage earners of the proportional voting system; that applies, incidentally, to all the professional elections (for the selection of employee representatives, works committee delegates, conciliation boards, and so on, as well as for the future selection of Social Security Fund administrators), and which assures better representativity of union organizations in these bodies.

The Confederal Bureau, conscious of the importance of this issue, is asking the secretariat to speak on its behalf, and as soon as possible, to the president of the republic, and to pass on to him this resolution as well as its 8 December 1981 resolution.

It also asks all the official bodies in the organization, regional unions, general unions, union sections, etcetera, to include this issue of decentralization in the agenda of their deliberations, and to make the workers aware of the imperative necessity of contributing to the establishment of new structures to make a break with the practices inherited from the past, be done with the after-effects of colonialism, and open the way to real change in Reunion, to move at last toward development and social progress. Decentralization is indeed the means by which the Reunionese can take charge of the development of their country and promote social progress for the benefit of Reunionese themselves, and first of all for the workers and the most disadvantaged levels.

For the Confederal Bureau, Secretary General Bruny Payet.

12149

CSO: 4719/1061

STEPS TO RESTORE NATIONAL RAILWAY NETWORK REPORTED

Paris EUROPE OUTREMER in French No 623, Dec 81 p 40

[Text] The UAC [Uganda Railways Corporation] was established in 1977 following the breakup of the East African Railways Corporation. In 1979, "railway traffic hit the bottom of the abyss" because of the disintegration of the economy caused by the war of liberation and the quasi-breaking of relations with Kenya. The 1,286-kilometer network is a meter gauge track divided into two branches: the southern section, linked to the Kenyan network, goes to the frontier at Kasese, passing through Kampala (located 1,325 kilometers from Mombasa by rail); the other section, starting out from Tozozo, serves the northwest regions, while a short section links Jinja to Namasagali.

The installations and rolling stock of the new company were seriously damaged in the war of liberation. In 1979, train service having been practically suspended in certain sections in the north and west of the country, only 756,000 passengers and 266,000 tons of merchandise were transported. However, beginning in the latter part of 1979, the new administration energetically tackled the reorganization of the network and restoration of traffic. The first concern was to increase and restore the rolling stock. Orders placed with foreign firms in 1978 for French (Alsthom-Atlantic) and German diesel-electric locomotives, as well as Indian, Belgian and East German cars were confirmed and completed. In January 1980, SOFRERAIL [French Railroad Design and Construction Company] signed a technical assistance contract for a sum of 11.3 million French francs, of which 89 million French francs was for the supply of railway equipment. A few weeks later, the FRG granted a credit to repair locomotives and purchase equipment for the new workshops.

The government has had Chinese engineers study the laying out of a new 320-kilometer line from Mityana to Kabale in the extreme southwest part of the country. Among other projects currently being studied are the renovation of close to 1,000 kilometers of track and the establishment of a training center for 200 students near Kampala. However, financial considerations threaten to delay implementation. In any case, the renovation of the equipment stocks, as well as the signal and telecommunications systems should give the network new impetus.

5671

CSO: 4719/1029

IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM CONTINUING

Paris EUROPE OUTREMER in French No 623, Dec 81 pp 36-37

[Text] Simply glancing at the map, one can see that the Zairian railway system is characterized by discontinuity and a complementary mixed system (waterway and railway). Totaling 5,169 kilometers in length, but with three different railway gauge tracks, the system is the biggest on the continent, after that of South Africa, in relation to the vastness of the country (2,345,000 square kilometers). The railway system no longer meets the needs of the economy, and the problem of building a national railway system without having a breakdown of operations is acute.

Taking into consideration the transportation system, two companies operate the railways: the SNCZ [Zairian National Railroad Company] and ONATRA [National Transportation Office]. The former operates 3,518 kilometers of track in the southern half of the country: from Sakania (on the Zambian frontier) to Ilebo, from Kamina to Kalemie (on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika) and to Kindu, and finally from Tenke to Diolo, the latter line being extended into Angola by the Benguela railway line that goes to the port of Lobito, 1,415 kilometers from the Zairian frontier (see article on the Southern Africa network). ONATRA operates mainly the Kinshasa-Matadi line (365 kilometers), and at the same time 12,170 kilometers of waterways and the maritime port of Banana--still to be equipped--as well as the river ports of Boma and Matadi. Big investments are necessary for the repair and standardization of the tracks, electrification (presently 858 kilometers) and replacement and strengthening of traction and transportation equipment.

The "national network" includes that line that departs from the Shaba mining region and stops at Ilebo where cargo is off-loaded onto river vessels up to Kinshasa from which once again it is shipped by rail to Matadi. It is this line that is used for shipping some of the mine products to be exported. According to still provisional figures, Matadi-Kinshasa railway traffic was 1,335,436 tons in 1981, as compared with 1,272,163 tons the preceding year, or a net increase due mainly to export goods, while imports are dropping.

To increase the transportation capacity of the Matadi-Kinshasa line, ONATRA is going to acquire 8 locomotives, 100 railway cars and 75 passenger cars, thanks mainly to FRG credits. Part of this equipment will be used in the urban transportation system in the capital on a new line being laid out and in the

process of becoming operational. Moreover, the line between the center of Kinshasa and Lemba, a suburb of Kinshasa, is in the process of being made two-way to facilitate servicing. Moreover, an electrification study, linked to the existing hydroelectric power plants of Inga and Zonga, has been completed by a German firm. Its conclusions are favorable to the electrification of the entire Matadi-Kinshasa line and 50 kilometers of junctions and shunts. The need for renovating the already old diesel-electric locomotives, on a more or less long-term basis, enhances interest to this project. Finally, there are plans to improve signals and telecommunications on this vital line.

The New 5-Year Plan

For its part, the SNCZ set up a new 5-year plan (1980-1984) in the first part of 1981, picking up the greater part of projects embodied in the 1980-1983 plan. It represents an overall amount of 330 million dollars of which 173.5 million is for infrastructure alone. Financing reportedly will be assured through self-financing (50 percent) and through foreign aid under the aegis of the World Bank (50 percent). Included in foreign aid are mainly that from the ADB [African Development Bank], the Saudi Fund and other bilateral aid such as that from the FRG. The first stage of the renovation of the infrastructure, beginning with a program to renovate 220 kilometers and lay ballast on 283 kilometers, concerns 700 kilometers of track, located mainly in Kasai. The 29-kilogram per meter rail line, too light for the heavy copper traffic, will be replaced by a 40-kilogram line, while a factory for the construction of concrete ties is planned. It should be pointed out that in the field of transportation, Zaire is also benefiting from significant financial, technical and material assistance from Brussels. Lending their assistance to the SNCZ and ONATRA are 82 Belgian technicians. In the fall of 1981, the Belgian and Zairian Governments signed an agreement dealing with the realignment of the Kamina-Ilebo railway section. On-the-spot studies are scheduled to begin immediately.

As for the construction of new lines, one of the two projects about which there has long been talk is the Matadi-Banana railway line which comes within the framework of the OEBK [Organization for the Equipment of Banana-Kinshasa] project whose director is a Japanese. This line will be constructed in two stages: first of all, the Matadi-Boma section with junction on the Mayumbe line (Tshea-Boma, 138 kilometers) which, originally used for transportation of forestry products, will be repaired, and then, the Boma-Banana section. Experts believe that the future deepwater port of Banana should be built before the railway line is extended to the coast. It should be recalled that a gigantic suspension bridge, 728 meters long and 88 meters high over the Zaire River, is being built at Matadi with Japanese aid (initial cost, 34 billion yen). The project, which began in May 1979, is halfway through the final stage. This bridge will permit railway and highway traffic to cross the river to reach the city of Boma and the future port of Banana.

All maps of Zaire show the Ilebo-Kinshasa railway line (650 kilometers) as planned for or under study; this line will end the discontinuity of the mixed type railway by allowing Zaire to be crossed from one part to the other over

above 3,200 kilometers. This was a big project and apparently had been placed on ice, but, in reality, has since 1974 been the subject of studies that are being closely followed by the Japanese. What is certain is that despite present serious difficulties in the Zairian economy, the big industrial powers are, together with certain Arab countries, effectively supporting the efforts of a country which has tremendous resources and is a friend of the West to rehabilitate and improve its "national line."

5671

CSO: 4719/1029

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR RURAL AREAS REPORTED

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 1 Jun 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] According to reports reaching us from our interior offices throughout the country, the elections held last Sunday in the hinterland to designate members of the future collective councils were very successful. Our permanent correspondents tell us that there was a heavy voter turnout and perfect organization everywhere. All militants and MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] activists must be glad to know that now, at all levels, 25 million Zairians want to take advantage of the opportunity offered to them by the president-founder to freely choose their representatives at all levels of the party organs.

While waiting to give our readers the results of Sunday's balloting, which was being counted as of yesterday, ELIMA feels it is its duty to mention a misunderstanding which seems to be prevalent with many people. We want to stress that Sunday's elections did not involve Kinshasa or other large cities where there are no collectives. They were only to be held in rural areas which have collectives. Kinshasa and the other large cities will have only two elections. The program for these is as follows:

1. Elections for the Councils of Urban Zones
 - a. From 24 to 29 June: submission of candidatures;
 - b. From 11 to 23 July: electoral campaign;
 - c. 25 July: elections.
2. Parliamentary Elections
 - a. From 17 May to 6 June 1982: submission of candidatures;
 - b. From 10 August to 4 September: campaign;
 - c. 5 September: elections.

Now that there is no more misunderstanding, it is up to the candidates and voters to understand what is at stake and act accordingly, especially in view of the fact that the authorities are offering every guarantee to ensure free and democratic elections.

WORK BEGUN ON NEW URBAN TRAINS

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 1 Jun 82 pp 1, 6

[Article by N'Zinga Nsingi: "Laying of the First Rail of the Urban Train"]

[Text] The secretary of state for transport and communications, Citizen Lundu, representing the titular head of the department, presided over a ceremony last Thursday in Ndolo for the laying of the first rail of the urban trains. The secretary of state for land affairs, Citizen Mbamba Ganga, the president, general delegate of ONATRA [National Transportation Office], M. H. Paelinck, the Ambassador of the FRG, Walter Konig, and other important persons were present.

According to Citizen Bombutshi, managing director of the western region department of the SNCZ [Zaire National Communications Company], who presented the equipment that has already been acquired for this project (eight locomotives and 75 passenger cars), this project--which will be carried out thanks to a loan from the FRG--will make it possible to transport almost 88,000 travelers rapidly every day in comfort and safety. To do this, ONATRA, which now has the equipment, has already begun to restore the existing railway linking Matete and Ndolo. Next it will create a railroad in its proper site to be used only for urban trains linking Ndolo to Pont Kasa-Vubu, thus the Matete-Ndolo section will be doubled.

The president, general delegate of ONATRA, Honore Poelinck, took the floor to pay a vibrant tribute to the president-founder of the MPR and president of the republic, as well as to German-Zairian cooperation, which made this project's implementation possible. He added that ONATRA's goal is to improve railway transportation for the population of Kinshasa and for travelers on the Matadi-Kinshasa line. It is now up to future users of these trains to adhere to a certain degree of discipline so that the trains' comfort and safety will be preserved as long as possible. In conclusion, he stressed the fact that ONATRA is counting on the aid and support of the administrative and political authorities to shorten any administrative delay which might impede the completion of the project, since prices are constantly fluctuating on the world market.

9855

CSO: 4719/1067

WAYS TO INTEGRATE ZAIRIAN WOMEN INTO POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 26 May 82 pp 2-3

[Interview with Ekila Liyonda, secretary general for the status of women, in Elima, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution], by Kalonji Kalantanda; date of interview not specified]

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the MPR, Citizen Ekila Liyonda, secretary general for the status of women, granted an important interview to our colleague Kalonji Kalantanda, in which she recalled all the problems of effectively integrating Zairian women citizens.

In this interview, Citizen Ekila considered that the appointment of women to state and party organs were decisions regulating national life are taken has been the most important step in the process of emancipating Zairian women. But this step was supplemented by the establishment, on 8 February 1980, of the Secretariat General for the Status of Women.

The basic mission of this body is to seek out ways and means of achieving the full integration of the Zairian mother.

There is a saying, "to educate a woman is to educate an entire nation," which emphasizes the weighty mission entrusted to this important national body. In order to complete successfully the mission entrusted to it, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women has been provided with a program of action touching on various political, economic and sociocultural fields. This program includes five priority projects and is basically directed at educating women citizens, thanks to the campaign against illiteracy; it also aims at lightening agricultural work, thanks to appropriate techniques.

Here then, in question and answer form, is the full text of this important interview.

[Question] What is the total number of women in relation to the total population of the country?

[Answer] Although this is of not inconsiderable importance in the achievement of this mission, I must admit that the Secretariat General for the Status of Women does not yet have any precise data on the total number of women in relation to the total population of the country. According to currently established statistics, women probably make up more than half of the national population. I personally believe that these data require updating for the simple reason that, to my knowledge, there has not been a general census of the population for more than 5 years.

I am happy that the party Executive Committee, moved by the need for a deeper knowledge of women and their problems, has instructed the Secretariat General for the Status of Women to undertake a large-scale census operation in the near future, in order to establish the precise total of the female population of the country, and more particularly, the working female population.

[Question] How do you judge the present status of Zairian women with regard to the aspirations of the MPR?

[Answer] The present status of Zairian women should be evaluated with reference to the plan of action which the MPR set up on their behalf as part of the basic options recorded in the N'Sele Manifesto. These options advocate a policy of emancipation for woman, to permit her to expand her personality through access to professional, social and political responsibilities in a society open to all men and women.

No one will contradict me if I affirm that these objectives, adopted by the MPR since 1967, have been largely achieved today. Thanks to the will and action of the president-founder, the Zairian woman citizen has become the natural and indispensable partner on whom men will henceforth be able to rely in fulfilling the responsibilities imposed by the work of national construction.

She has ceased to be the second-class person whom society liked to confine to the tasks of the housewife whose basic role consisted of maintaining a home, giving birth, and supporting with the products earned through sweat of her brow those whom she had brought into the world.

Today, without abandoning her natural obligations, the Zairian woman is able to make her contribution to the economic expansion and social evolution of her country. More and more, thanks to education and the acquisition of knowledge, she is emerging from the framework of the family, and sharing professional responsibilities with men. She has broken out of her social isolation and feels capable of participating in the decisions concerning society as a whole. She is gradually entering into all sectors of national life and seeking to make herself useful there.

[Question] What have been the important and decisive stages of the process for the integration and participation of the Zairian woman in national development since the advent of the new regime?

[Answer] I must point out that of all the political regimes which, in their turn, have provided the administration of the country, from the traditional authority through colonialization to the various governments set up during the first 5 years of national independence, the Second Republic is the only regime to have formulated, for the very first time, a coherent program of action for the Zairian woman citizen.

Since then, any decision or action laid down by the president-founder of the MPR, the initiator and principal leader of that program, is an important step in the process leading to the integration of the woman into society as well as her participation in social responsibilities.

However, I consider that the appointment of women to party and state organs, where decisions are taken regulating national life, constitutes the most important step in this process, a step which was supplemented on 8 February 1980 by the creation of the Secretariat General for the Status of Women, whose mission consists precisely of seeking ways and means of achieving the full integration of the Zairian mother into the national development effort.

[Question] What is the program of action of the Secretariat General for the Status of Women for integrating the Zairian woman citizen into the development of the country?

[Answer] The program finalized by the Secretariat General for the Status of Women aims at insuring the full integration of the Zairian woman citizen into all sectors of national life, in particular, the political, juridical, social and cultural fields.

In the political field, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women seeks to train women party members of the MPR, to make them aware of their rights and duties in society, to make them realize the role they have to play, and to help them participate in the political responsibilities of the country.

In the juridical field, the effort to be made by the Secretariat General for the Status of Women will be to obtain the abolition of the legal and statutory texts considered to be discriminatory in all respects with regard to women. The constitution in force in Zaire recognizes that all Zairians, regardless of sex, have the same rights from the moment it puts them on the same footing of equality.

Consequently, every effort should be made to abolish the legal and statutory provisions that break that harmony by placing women in a disadvantaged position with regard to their social partners, who are men.

In the economic field, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women seeks to turn women into real economic agents, by lightening, through the setting up of appropriate techniques, certain household chores which prevent women from

devoting themselves fully to production activities. In the sociocultural field, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women is mainly engaged in fighting against traditional beliefs, customs and prejudices which slow down the emancipation of women in the fields of education, politics and economics.

[Question] Does this program include priority projects?

[Answer] It is obvious that the actions to be undertaken as part of implementing this program, whether or not they have priority, depend on the size of the financial and material resources put at the institution's disposal. Thus, basing its policy on its resources, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women has conceived five priority projects which it intends to carry out during the present budgetary exercise. The projects involved are:

1. The creation in Kinshasa, at an early date, of a Center of Continuing Education for Women which will have the task of giving to those mothers not having had a chance to go to school, or to complete their elementary and secondary studies, courses in literacy training, geography, history, traditional and modern cooking, infant care, and so on;
2. A dyeing project, which would initiate a number of mothers into the traditional techniques of printing fabrics, so that, thanks to this trade, they will be able to become self-sufficient, providing their own subsistence and that of their children through their own efforts;
3. The setting up the Lower Zaire Region, more especially in the Cataracts and Lukaya Subregions, of small-scale canning factories which will use as raw materials the fruits (mangoes, pineapples, guavas, and so on) produced in abundance in these two subregions; the women devoting themselves to these crops will thus be given the opportunity to create for themselves reliable and continuing sources of income;
4. The setting up of small-scale soap factories in the Bandundu Region;
5. The establishment of peasant cooperatives which will constitute real centers of economic influence where peasant women will be able at the same time to produce and market their products without any intermediary.

[Question] What are the basic objectives of this program?

[Answer] In the program of action which is finalized, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women gives absolute priority to women in the rural areas, who constitute nearly 60 percent of the country's working population.

Consequently, the various actions to be undertaken to insure the full integration of Zairian women citizens into the development process should, as a matter of priority, be directed toward the masses of rural women. Thus the following are envisaged on their behalf:

1. The campaign against illiteracy;

2. Lightening of agricultural work, by means of adequate techniques;
3. Expanding the range of programs in training and agricultural extension, so as to strengthen the role of women in agricultural production and marketing activities;
4. Furthering the development of infrastructure services (day care centers, clean water, energy) so as to make it easier for women to carry out the work essential to the community's survival.

[Question] What was the result of your tour of higher institutions with regard to women students?

[Answer] In organizing this tour, my ambition was in no way to achieve any result whatsoever in the immediate future, for the simple reason that my action was to make the young girl students aware of their future responsibilities as wives and mothers and as part of the country.

We must therefore wait until they enter into active life in order to see how they follow my advice. For the moment, my greatest satisfaction is to have started a dialogue between the Secretariat General for the Status of Women and the feminine elite in education, a dialogue which will enable us all to work hand in hand to achieve what the party expects of Zairian women, namely their full integration into the national development process.

[Question] You recently undertook a tour of enterprises which employ working mothers. What are the major problems faced by this category of women citizens?

[Answer] The problems faced by working women are numerous. They may be summed up under seven headings:

1. The marital veto;
2. The failure to grant married working women a number of social advantages;
3. The reevaluation of the social function of motherhood;
4. The possibility of considering married working women as heads of families in the event their husbands are unemployed;
5. Guaranteeing employment to working women when their husbands are transferred;
6. Social security; working women wish to be guaranteed the benefit of the contributions paid to the INSS [National Social Security Institute];
7. Establishment of a placement bureau for women.

[Question] What action does your secretariat intend to take to help women citizens regain their rights in this sector?

[Answer] As I have already pointed out, the Secretariat General for the Status of Women has included in its program for action the juridical abolition of all legal and statutory provisions that are an obstacle to women both in the enjoyment and in the exercise of the rights conferred by the constitution on all Zairian citizens without regard to sex.

With regard specifically to the situation of working women, multipartite meetings, bringing together the Secretariat General for the Status of Women, the Labor Department, UNTZA [National Union of Workers of Zaire] and ANEZA [National Association of Zairian Enterprises], will take place in the near future, in order to develop a legal platform permitting all workers, regardless of sex, to enjoy identical rights on the basis of the principle: "Equal pay for equal work."

[Question] What are the major obstacles to action for the integration of women?

[Answer] These obstacles are of various kinds. We can principally note:

1. A too high note of illiteracy among the majority of women, due to the fact that before the advent of the new regime, efforts undertaken in the education sector gave very little importance to the instruction of women and thus there was created a gap between the intellectual development of women and men which is difficult to fill;
2. The existence of a number of social prejudices which in certain circles continue to relegate women to positions of inferiority in relation to men;
3. The difficult economic circumstances through which the country is passing prevent the application of adequate means for successfully completing the various projects conceived by the Secretariat General for the Status of Women as part of its action toward insuring the full integration of women into the national development process.

[Question] Does the Secretariat General for the Status of Women maintain relations with other international women's organizations?

[Answer] The Secretariat General for the Status of Women is a young mechanism, which, in order to carry out its work effectively, needs the experience of other organizations, governmental or otherwise, that are concerned with the problems of women throughout the world. It is, consequently, essential for it to be able to establish a regular flow of exchanges with all existing women's organization. But I must confess that for some time, faithful to our good neighbor policy, we have been trying to form privileged relations of friendship and cooperation with our sisters in the People's Republic of the Congo, united within the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women.

[Question] What is the last word you wish to say to women citizens through the medium of the newspaper ELIMA?

[Answer] This can only be an invitation to all Zairian women citizens to participate in the effort undertaken by the president-founder of the MPR on behalf of the advancement of Zairian women, by giving full support to the Secretariat General for the Status of Women in order to help it carry out properly its weighty and delicate mission.

9434

CSO: 4719/1072

ZAIRE

BRIEFS

WITHDRAWAL FROM INTERNATIONAL SPORTS--According to the newspaper ELIMA, Zaire has just decided to renounce all the African competitions to which it has subscribed. Zaire has therefore cancelled all the sporting events to which it has subscribed because of the present difficult situation. This is a decision of the Executive Council. This measure affects the organization of the international cycling competition in Bas-Zaire, the quarter final of the soccer competition involving the Lopopo and Vita clubs and the African basketball championship. [Text] [AB040804 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 4 Aug 82]

CSO: 4719/1245

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